

March 1995

*The*

# ACE

CRYSTAL CLEAR

THE VOICE OF THE SWL WINTERFEST

QSL



# KULP

AM 1610 7415 15049

*R F Friendly*  
R F FRIENDLY G.M.

# Dialogs March 1995

Welcome to the March DiaLogs and my final submission as your "Humble" editor. Owing to recent events in both my personal and professional lives, I no longer have the time to participate in the ACE. Future columns will be prepared by Nick Grace. Also, my apologies to those who submitted logs via Internet, I found out the hard way that my Internet gateway saves my personal mail for only 7 days! - Kirk Trummel

Loggings to be included in the next Dialogs, should be sent to **Nick Grace, 2116 Florida Ave NW, Washington DC. 20008.** (ed)

## DISTANT LANDS - SHORT-WAVE

### **KIWI RADIO**

JAN 28 - 0710-0810+ - 7445.0 kHz - USB - Graham Barclay w/ pop tunes by Mariah Carey, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Madonna, ACE plug, Hello's. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 2-342+ much better reception this time. [Thank God for SSB!, ED])

## NORTH AMERICA - SHORT-WAVE

### **AIRCRAFT CARRIER RADIO**

FEB 4 - 1933-1934 - 6955.1 kHz - AM - OM w/ ID a few times. (Joe Filipkowski, RI PSE QSL)

### **ANARCHY ONE - Vista**

JAN 8 - 1605-1629\* - 6955.0 kHz - USB - Captain Anarchy with talk, music, comedy, played a track from the Spoken Word album. (Joe Yadsko, PA 233)(Joe Filipkowski, RI 455)

### **BLACK RIDER RADIO - Wellsville**

JAN 1 - 0209-0227 - 6955.0 kHz - LSB - ID as "This is Black Rider Radio on station KDED", music "I just want a Cowboy", "Devil Got My Momma", Louie Armstrong's "West End". (Paul Grote, MO 454) FEB 9 - 0004-0023\* - 6965.0 kHz - USB - Bluegrass & Blues music. (Joe Filipkowski, RI nice audio!)(Mike Leclerc, CT 434)(Paul Grote, MO 333) FEB 9 - \*0047-0056 - 6956.0 kHz - USB - Repeat. (Paul Grote, MO 232)

### **CSIC**

JAN 1 - 1714-1741 - 7415.0 kHz - AM - "The Voice of the Great White North", 1995 Top 10 Shortwave prediction list, rock music, talked about QSLs and the rubber chicken. (Joe Yadsko, PA 333)

### **Fake Radio USA / Radio USA (Fake)**

JAN 7 - \*2257-2322\* - 6956.6 kHz - USB - "Are you as confused as I am?" repeated, "All Fake, All the Time.", mentioned WJTA, KGUN, "Anarchy in the UK" by the Sex Pistols. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 2-333 PSE QSL) JAN 7 - 2334-2350 - 6957.7 kHz - USB - music "One Thing Leads to Another", "All Fake, All the Time", "Faking for Free Radio". (Joe Filipkowski, RI 2-333, PSE QSL)

### **HE MAN RADIO**

FEB 4 - 2203 - 6955.0 kHz - USB - She Man w/ a several minute plug for T-Shirts. (Eric Suter, VA 433)(Mike Leclerc, CT 433)(Jesse Rose, VA 323)(Michael Prindle, NY 444)

### **HEAVY DUDE RADIO Relay**

JAN 15 - 1621-1636 - 7418.0 kHz - AM - Music by Queensrache, Helloween, Def Leppard, Mr. Heavy Dude with 2nd Aniv program. (Joe Yadsko, PA 433)(Mike Leclerc, CT 121)(Jesse Rose, VA 323)(George Zeller, OH 252)

### **KDED - Wellsville**

FEB 4 - 0122-0132\* - 6955.0 kHz - USB - EZ listening music, off with "Keep the Faith". (Jerry Coatsworth, ONT 433) FEB 8 - 0132-0151\* - 6965.1 kHz - USB - GD tunes. (Paul Grote, MO 454)

### **LASER HOT HITS Relay**

JAN 1 - 0312-0329 - 7415.0 kHz - AM - music by Loose Ends "A Little Spice", Bon Jovi "Always". (Joe Yadsko, PA 333)

### **ONE VOICE RADIO - Merlin**

FEB 4 - \*1900-1922\* - 6955.0 kHz - LSB - Program #3A, health talk about cancer, kidney stones, drug abuse, music. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 444)(Mike Leclerc, CT 545)

### **MAD DADDY - Huntsville**

JAN 29 - 2024-2100 - 7422.0 kHz - AM - Oldies, Big Band & Jazz music. (Eric Suter, VA 322)(Joe Filipkowski, RI 422 mostly an open carrier.)

### **RADIO AIRPLANE - Wellsville**

JAN 28 - 0045-0109\* - 6957.1 kHz - USB - Captain Eddy w/ music by Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, CPA Man skit. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 343)(Mike Leclerc, CT 434/333)(Jesse Rose, VA 212) FEB 11/12 - 2351-0102\* - 6954.7 kHz - USB - Captain Edy w/ music by Tom Petty, Weird Al, The Doors, Jersey Boys phone calls, Fungus Hut & Bartles & James Brown wine coolers ads, off w/ barking dogs. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 333/433)

**RADIO ALBATROSS INT** (Not Really a Pirate but included just because, ED) FEB 5 - 2100-2200 - 15674.6 kHz - AM - Relay via Radio Copan - Blues and Jazz-Rock music, ads for actual businesses. (William Hassig, IL 244)

### **RADIO BOB'S COMMIE NET**

JAN 9 - \*0030-0145\* - 5855.0 kHz - USB - Radio Blob w/ Reed Drugs ad, George Zeller's MT convention speech. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 243 Great show Bob!)

### **RADIO DOOMSDAY - Wellsville**

JAN 17 - 0146-0213\* - 7415.0 kHz - AM - Replay of New Year's '94 program. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 344 [Obviously an imposter...., ED])

### **RADIO FUSION RADIO - Providence**

FEB 4 - 2228-2257 - 6956.0 kHz - AM - Rap music. (Eric Suter, VA 222)(Jerry Coatsworth, ONT 222)(Greg Meyers, VA 322 as UNID)(Jesse Rose, VA 111)

### **RADIO IS NOT RADIO - Providence**

JAN 7 - \*0318-0336\* - 6955.0 kHz - USB - YL computer generated voice with "Fake Radio USA is not Radio is not Radio", "Fake Radio USA does not QSL", "Radio USA is not Radio is not Radio", "Andy Yoder is not John Woish". (Joe Filipkowski, RI 242) JAN 7 - 2248-2256\* - 6955.5 kHz - USB - Repeat. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 222) JAN 7 - \*2322-2327\* - 6957.0 kHz - USB - Repeat. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 222) JAN 8 - 0252-0302\* - 6957.0 kHz - USB - Repeat. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 121) JAN 8 - 1444-1457\* - 7415.0 kHz - USB - Repeat. (Joe Yadsko, PA 233)(Joe Filipkowski, RI 242)

### **RADIO MERLIN INTERNATIONAL Relay**

JAN 15 - \*1741-1827\* - 7416.1 kHz - AM - Music "Let's Hang On", "Law of the Land", gave other Europirate frequencies, talked about the history of the station, "Nobody plays a better variety of music." (Joe Yadsko, PA 333)(Joe Filipkowski, RI 343)(Jerry Coatsworth, ONT 444)(George Zeller, OH 252)(Rob Ross, ONT 333)

**RFM**

JAN 9 - 0329-0344 - 6955.0 kHz - USB - H.V. Short with music including "Magic Carpet Ride", jingles, comedy ads. (Joe Yadsko, PA 222)

**SOLID ROCK RADIO - Wellsville**

JAN 7 - 0122-0136 - 7415.0 kHz - USB - music "I Feel Alright", "Painted Pony", mentioned Laser Hot Hits. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 242) JAN 22 - 1402-1504 - 7415.0 kHz - USB - BB King & Ray Charles, Blues and Jazz music, Hello's, talk abt Radio Democracy & Busted Anti-Castro cland. (Eric Suter, VA 222)(Joe Filipkowski, RI 444)(Jerry Coatsworth, ONT 222)(Michael Prindle, NY 343)

**SUNSHINE RADIO Relay**

JAN 1 - 1744-1828 - ????.7 kHz - ??? - 80's rock music, OM ancr in German & English. (Joe Yadsko, PA 243) JAN 7 - 0234-0317\* - 6955.0 kHz - USB - music by Joan Jett, Foreigner, Deep Purple, Bon Jovi, Loverboy, Aerosmith, Black Sabbath. (Joe Filipowski, RI 343)

**The Real Radio USA - QSL Information Unknown**

JAN 1 - 0400-0430 - 7415.0 kHz - LSB - claimed to be Radio USA with presentation of a Nazi Christmas, German march music, talk about Hitler. (Joe Yadsko, PA 444)

**UP AGAINST THE WALL RADIO - Wellsville**

JAN 1 - 0237-0250 - 6956.0 kHz - USB - music "Eve of Destruction", "When the Bullet Hits the Bone", "Don't listen if you are a true-blue American or a politically correct fascist...We do require your comments and views regarding our programming." (Paul Grote, MO 555 strong, clear signal.) JAN 7 - 2220-2242\* - 6957.0 kHz - USB - owsley w/ music by Black Sabbath, Golden Earring, REM, Roxette. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 322) JAN 8 - \*0159-0205 - 6957.0 kHz - USB - Repeat. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 222) FEB 11 - 2259-2332\* - 6957.0 kHz - USB - music including "C.C. Rider" & Jazz. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 2-333)

**WKND**

JAN 14 - \*1849-1936\* - 7415.7 kHz - AM - Radio Aminal & Pirate Mike w/ talk about Fake Radio USA, Alliance for Free Radio, ACE Plug, music, Radio Albatross, Voice of the Night, mx, We're K-9 dog, VOA QRM after 1900. (Joe Filipkowski, RI 444/222) JAN 15 - 1651-1738\* - 7415.0 kHz - AM - Repeat. (Joe Yadsko, PA 444)(Joe Filipkowski, RI 444)(Mike Leclerc, CT 534)(Michael Prindle, NY 454)(Jesse Rose, VA 222)

**WLIS - Blue Ridge Summit**

JAN 1 - 0332-0359 - 7415.0 kHz - USB - Federal Express Orange Bowl special, "Life would be empty without interval signals." (Joe Yadsko, PA 344) FEB 4 - \*2129-2200\* - 6956.0 kHz - USB - Interval Sigs from Radio Lollipop, He Man, CSIC, CKLW, KQSB & KAWU. (Eric Suter, VA 333)(Joe Filipkowski, RI 232)(Mike Leclerc, CT 433)(Jerry Coatsworth, ONT 333)(Jesse Rose, VA 222)(Michael Prindle, NY 433)

**WTWP - Wellsville**

JAN 29 - 1617-1649\* - 7420.0 kHz - USB - Rock & Raggae, AC/DC parody song, Tonya Harding skit, comedy. (Eric Suter, VA 333)(Joe Filipkowski, RI 242)(Jesse Rose, VA 122 as UNID)

**UNIDENTIFIED**

MAR-00 - 30 DEC - 2355-0000 - 6955.0 kHz - USB - Sounded like a news-type format, couldn't make out a lot, fairly sure it was a pirate. (Paul Grote, MO 242 [Might have been RKNA, ED]) MAR-01 - 14 JAN - 0316-0326+ - 6956.0 kHz - LSB - UNID music, OM ad libbing a bit, "Zither/Humming" to Beethoven's 9th symphony, 4th movement, Very enjoyable, No addr heard. (Paul Grote, MO 333)

**DIALOGS D-XTRA**

Joe Yadsko passes on information from Heavy Dude Radio. To quote "... we hope to get an output power of 150-200 watts in the spring of '95. Then we will do tests to North America. So watch out for us on 41 meters. Until then we will do rock shows for Europe, but maybe I will send another cassette to the NAPRS." That's it from me! Thanks to all who supported this column, all the best.

**FEBRUARY COLUMN**

Well folks, we have two Clandestine Profile columns this month. This one was originally submitted on time in February, but somehow it did not make it into the pages of *The ACE* last month. The other column, starting with the Mexican clandestine situation, is the regular March column. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

**CLANDESTINE ACTIVITY DOWN IN 1994**

As you may have suspected from reading *The ACE* for the last twelve months, North American pirate activity once again broke the record for most activity during 1994. Every year I tabulate the number of stations that are logged in various DX bulletins. The 1994 count was 220 and rising at the time when I wrote this column. This was the first time that the station count exceeded 200. Even without a systematic counting, I am sure that many of you noticed that there was extremely heavy North American pirate radio activity by historical standards in 1994.

Part of this was certainly caused by a relatively low level of FCC enforcement activity during 1994. I may have missed one or two someplace, but only three FCC busts and/or visits managed to make news in 1994. The confiscation of equipment on the m/v *Fury* that allegedly was used for RNI (or WJPL?) relays on 7415 got Alan Weiner and Brother Stair into the news. The WPIG saga, also on 7415 kHz, ended with a visit from the FCC. The other noteworthy FCC bust of 1994 was not a pirate at all, but was instead the Frente Nacional Cubano anti-Castro clandestine operated in Puerto Rico by millionaire developer Domingo Sadurni of the Cuban American National Foundation. The low bust level, an improved larger critical mass of station operators and listeners, and a move away from overcrowded 41 meter traditional pirate frequencies all contributed to the massive level of 1994 pirate activity.

I'll leave the detailed accounts for other ACE columns this month, but emerging information indicates that the FCC already matched its total 1994 bust/visit level in early 1995, given three mid-January visits to alleged North American pirate operators. It remains to be seen if this will have a lasting impact on 1995 pirate activity levels. Some pirates had been getting somewhat lax in recent times, given frequent and lengthy broadcasts that sometimes were accompanied by public schedule announcements in advance. FCC bust odds for stations operating sporadically with shows of 30-45 minutes still carry extremely low odds of FCC enforcement, so we shall see.

In contrast to the unprecedentedly mammoth level of pirate broadcasting, the volume of political clandestine station transmissions declined noticeably during 1994. European pirate expert Mathias Kropf has been counting both the number of clandestine stations and the number of hours that they transmit for the last nine years. Kropf's 1994 *Clandestine Activity Survey* notes that 1768 "Weekly Broadcasting Hours" of clandestine transmissions were scheduled in 1994, which represents a 6% decline over 1993 clandestine transmitter levels. By region, Kropf measures a 13% decline in clandestine broadcasts to Asia, an increase of 73% toward Africa, and a decline of 39% in the Americas. At the level of individual target countries, Kropf finds that 276 hours per week of clandestine broadcasts are sent toward Iraq, 242 toward Cuba, and 238 toward Iran. These are the three hottest targets at the moment. Kropf's criteria do not count the large number of clandestine programs that openly purchase transmitter relay time on licensed broadcast stations such as WRNO, WHRI, and WRMI. If he did add these in, obviously Cuba would lead the clandestine target list by a huge margin.

The big decline in North American clandestine broadcasting is evident in Kropf's figures. Radio Caiman, the CIA's long-running anti-Castro clandestine, was closed down during 1995. Radio Patria Libre's ELN Colombian transmissions became somewhat erratic times. La Voz Popular remained active in Guatemala, albeit on a slightly erratic basis that still makes it a nice DX catch. Aside from the anti-Castro clandestine licensed station relays, this is just about all that we are hearing right now.

I have been wondering if the potential for long-term turmoil in Mexico might lead to some clandestine activity. Aside from some local FM clandestines on a very sporadic basis, this has not happened yet. But, the economic and political situation is worsening in Mexico right now, so we should keep our eyes and ears open.

If you would like additional information on Kropf's clandestine research and lists, \$1 US for return postage should get you some via Mathias Kropf, Maehr.-Schoenberger-Strasse 9, 36251 Bad Hersfeld, Germany. He also uses a Compuserve account that can also be reached via the internet: 100144.232@compuserve.com.

#### **GAO CRITICIZES RADIO MARTI PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESSES**

On September 23 the United States General Accounting Office released a report on the current Program Review Process at Radio Marti. The report had been requested by Congressman John Conyers Jr., Chairman at that time of the Legislation and National Security Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Committee on Government Operations. As regular readers of this column will recall, both Radio Marti and TV Marti have been repeatedly criticized for failing to produce objective programming. In particular, many have repeatedly charged that Jorge Mas Canosa of the Cuban American National Foundation has excessive influence on the staff and program content at the Marti operations, and that the stations are propaganda mouthpieces for the CANF instead of an uncensored alternative to regular domestic broadcast stations in Cuba.

The GAO report says that oversight responsibility for the Marti operations was transferred in December 1992 to the Bureau of Broadcasting from the Office of the Voice of America. The Associate Director of the Bureau of Broadcasting was also supposed to create an external review panel to evaluate programming being produced at the Marti stations. The GAO says, "because of staffing problems the Bureau's Office of Program Review only recently began overseeing Radio Marti's programming." GAO also says that even though this was supposed to be the main mechanism for monitoring and evaluating Radio Marti, no study has been initiated to see if Marti is meeting VOA standards. An external review panel has been created, but the Office of Cuba Broadcasting has no procedures to ensure that the review panel's findings are used.

The GAO report says that the review panel's procedures for selecting programs to look at do "not ensure independence." The panel does not decide which programs to review. Instead, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting selects programs to send to the panel for analysis. (The Acting Associate Director of the Bureau of Broadcasting says that this problem was eliminated in June 1994 by new procedures that allow the panel to select its own programs for review. Furthermore, the panel receives virtually no feedback from the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, suggesting that the panel's findings are generally ignored.

The GAO makes three recommendations. It recommends that the Director of the US Information Agency require that the Associate Director of the Bureau of Broadcasting determine whether the review panel's recommendations are being acted upon, that the Office of Cuba Broadcasting should act on these recommendations, and that the Office of Cuba Broadcasting provide formal written responses to the review panel after the panel issues findings. Clearly, none of these basic things have been happening.

What does this all mean? First, Radio Marti is still out of control, and is serving mainly as a mouthpiece for Jorge Mas Canosa's Cuban American National Foundation. Controls put in place to see that this does not happen have not been working. Second, if you reread the last couple of paragraphs, you can see a lot of support for the complaints that ex-VOA technical employee John Vodenik of the former Bethany relay site was making. The VOA and the USIA are full of bureaucrats. John complained that many of these top bureaucrats do not know what they are doing. The GAO report suggests that political influences (rather than laws or procedures) commonly dictate behavior within the USIA and VOA. If you'd like to order a free copy of the report, ask for report #GAO/NSIAD-94-265 from the US General Accounting Office, PO Box 6015, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20884.

#### **KIRK TRUMMEL'S DATABASES**

Many of you are familiar with DiaLogs editor Kirk Trummel's databases. He does a lot of work to maintain current data by frequency of all broadcast and utility stations that are currently using channels in the 41, 43, and 49 meter pirate bands. He has another 29 page list that combines known addresses used by North American and European pirates, as well as clandestine stations. This *Little Black Book* is a very useful item to have. Yet another list has a summary by station and by frequency of active scheduled clandestine stations. The last one is of obvious interest to readers of this column, but the others are good to have also.

Kirk sent me a summary of these lists a while ago. I mentioned them in *Monitoring Times*, but I want to plug them in *The ACE* as well. Kirk does a really fine job on the lists. My copy of the clandestine list still contains Radio Caiman, but I'm sure that Kirk has already deleted this by now, or will shortly be doing so, since this CIA station is now QRT.

Kirk loads updated files onto the ACE BBS, where you can download them at (913) 345-1978. He has hard copies available for those who do not have computer access, but you should send a couple of bucks to cover his postage costs. This is an excellent service, and we should take advantage of it.

#### **ROB ROSS IRAN VERIE**

ACE member Robert Ross of Ontario is happy to report that Canada Post recently sent a mailman to his home with a QSL from the Voice of Human Rights and Freedoms for Iran. Although there was a 15 month delay before the QSL arrived, it came with a station flag, sticker, and a detailed information sheet. The verie signer was Manou Chehr Ganji, Secretary General. The QSL arrived with two 20 franc notes in the envelope. Congratulations, Rob! This station has long been presumed to be an operation of USA intelligence agencies, given the slick enclosures that they often send out. They clearly seem to be well financed.

While I was at the Gifford Pinchot DXpedition in December, I remember Rich D'Angelo mentioning that he had also received two 20 franc notes from this station. I checked the international currency exchange rates in the newspaper, and found that on January 20, 40 French francs were worth \$7.65 US! Here's a switch! I've spent plenty of money sending stamps and cash to stations for return postage over the years, but I never found one that sent me \$7.65 back with the QSL! (I did once receive a Voice of Laryngitis full data QSL on a genuine USA \$5.00 bill, but I can't remember any other example).

#### **BBCMS CLANDESTINE ITEMS**

The excellent BBS Monitoring Service still releases weekly information about shortwave broadcasting on a worldwide basis, including quite a few fresh clandestine tips. Unfortunately, they raised the price of a subscription to their World Broadcasting Information service a few years ago to obscene levels over \$100. Fortunately, *Monitoring Times* subscribes to the service, so I can insert items from BBCMS into both *MT* and sometimes in *The ACE*. Unfortunately, in recent months, both of my columns have been so full that I couldn't mention some interesting items. Fortunately, we have some space now, so here goes.

**Nicaragua.** Former clandestine Radio Sandino still survives as a licensed station in Nicaragua. The station remains associated with the FSLN (Sandinist National Liberation Front). There is currently a power struggle between "orthodox democratic left" FSLN members and others in the party. The conflict led to the October 27 firing of Jose Esteban Quezada Gamero, who had been the editor of the "Events" newscast on Radio Sandino for more than 20 years. He isn't any more, since the show has been cancelled. The bad news was delivered by Radio Sandino Director Conrado Pineda Aguilar. **China.** I've never heard it myself, but some day I will have to try more seriously to hear the New Star Broadcasting Station. This anti-China operation, presumably financed by Taiwan, has been mentioned before in *The ACE* over the years. It is a mix of "numbers" transmissions disguised as

messages to mysterious persons in Japan and anti-China propaganda. BBCMS says that they were heard during the late fall at 1500 UTC on 8300 kHz, with 12750 and 15388 kHz listed as alternate and sometimes parallel frequencies.

**Palestine.** Longtime Palestinian clandestine Al-Quds Radio said in November that they operate on 702 kHz medium wave, but "occasionally on 5990 kHz shortwave." This is worth checking out from time to time. They have a lengthy schedule that is broader than 0800-1800 UTC, but I seldom see shortwave logs of this one. They oppose Arafat's Palestinian government.

**Cuba.** The December 2 edition of BBCMS WBI summarized Georgie Anne Geyer's remarks on the demise of the CIA's Radio Caiman that appeared in her nationally syndicated column. BBCMS prints the following quote: (Geyer) "confirms observations by many DXers that the long-time anti-Castro clandestine, Radio Caiman, has gone off the air...The station was a CIA operation that used a transmitter in Costa Rica." BBCMS goes on to cite other information that we carried in the December 1994 ACE. They cite their source as Glenn Hauser's "World of Radio" on November 29 via WWCR at 1330 UTC. If you heard this edition of World of Radio, and if you read the December ACE, you will know that Glenn cited his source during the show as the December issue of the ACE Clandestine Profile column! But, BBCMS does not mention ACE in their account. I guess it's an honor to have material stolen from *The ACE* without attribution by BBCMS, but it's pretty strange. I don't think that they would be too happy or friendly if I stole BBCMS material and used it without attribution. At least it's a distinction for this column.

#### **TRANSMITTER THEFTS**

I've been holding another strange item for a while that appeared in the November 10 issue of *Inside Radio*, a newsletter published by Tom Taylor using a phone number of (609) HOT-LINE. This is apparently a broadcasting industry newsletter; it was forwarded to you on this page via Dave Alpert of ABC News, who sent it to *Monitoring Times*, who sent it to me. BBCMS was not involved in this. Taylor reports that some broadcasting stations on Long Island have been suffering break-ins by thieves at their transmitters. Items stolen, such as exciters and other specific transmitter parts, have led police to conclude that the burglaries are not vandalism, but are instead organized larceny designed to steal transmitter equipment. Both broadcasting stations and FAA tower sites have been victimized. The last two sentences of Taylor's report reads, "What's their purpose? Maybe to steal enough stuff to equip one or more pirate FM stations." I have no confirmation of the validity of Taylor's speculation, but I'm printing it here because it is interesting.

#### **THE UNDERGROUND FREQUENCY GUIDE**

Although it has already been mentioned in *The ACE*, I want to get in a short plug for Don Schimmel's new book, *The Underground Frequency Guide*. Most of you know Don. He regularly attends events like the *Monitoring Times* Convention and Winter SWL Festival, and he has written the excellent "Communications Confidential" utilities column in *Popular Communications* for years. Don's new book is published by ACE editor Harry Helms' HighText Publications. It's a fascinating discussion of mysterious and strange signals such as numbers stations, foghorns, odd digital stuff, dripping water, etc. A long annotated frequency list makes up a substantial part of the book. Many of the topics covered in the book were originally discussed in *The ACE*, especially in Harry Helms' column. I really liked this book, and I'm sure that you will want to read this one. It's available from better shortwave retailers everywhere, or direct from HighText at PO Box 1489, Solana Beach, CA 92075 for \$14.95 plus \$3.00 shipping. You can also order from HighText via a toll-free number at (800) 247-6553.

#### **THANKS!**

This month we thank the following DX-ers who submitted information for the column: Mathias Kropf (Germany), Robert Ross (Ontario), Kirk Trummel (Missouri), Rich D'Angelo (Pennsylvania), Harry Helms (California), and George Zeller (Ohio). Next month we all hope to hear from YOU by February 21 for the March Clandestine Profile column.

## **CLANDESTINE PROFILE by George Zeller**

Your loggings, information, and speculations about clandestine radio stations are always very welcome for this column. You can send them direct to your editor at 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. Or, you can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1300-2045 UTC (1400-2145 after daylight time goes into effect). Alternatively, you can leave items on the ACE BBS (look for the Clandestine Profile prompt) at (913) 345-1978. I occasionally can get a line into the internet via the CWRU Cleveland Freenet, so my Freenet e-mail address at [ew088@cleveland.freenet.edu](mailto:ew088@cleveland.freenet.edu) can work if you are willing to risk slow receipt by me.

#### **NEW CLANDESTINE IN MEXICO AND GUATEMALA?**

In various prior columns I have speculated about the curious fact that we have had very few clandestine radio stations targeted to Mexico. As you must have seen in news accounts lately, Mexico is currently in an economic crisis that required a bailout by the United States Treasury and international monetary organizations. On February 20 the Mexican government raised interest rates to 50%, confirming speculation that bailout restrictions would certainly cause a deep recession in the Mexican economy. In addition, the Mexican Army is currently battling rebels in the southern part of the country. The Associated Press reported on February 20 that government troops have continued to advance into rebel held territory that they had previously not tried to control, and that the troops have been accused of torturing some rebel prisoners. Certainly this is a situation that is ripe for clandestine activity.

In addition, there is a longstanding ethnic clash between dominant Hispanic Mexicans and native groups that trace their heritage back to the indigenous Mayan culture, especially in rural areas of southern Mexico and other Central American countries south of Mexico. I received a very interesting handwritten Press Release in the mail that suggests that a clandestine operation might be imminent from these ethnic groups in southern Mexico and adjacent Guatemala. You can judge the content and validity of the release for yourself, since I'm printing the entire text here. I have left the spelling and punctuation intact.

#### **PRESS RELEASE**

**LA VOZ DE CHIAPAS LIBRE**  
and an interchangeable tropical/AM band outlet

#### **LA VOZ DE GUATAMALA MAYAN**

are soon to begin portable operation, in either Northwestern Guatemala, Northeastern Chiapas, or North Central Chiapas. Because these mobile Spanish language programs will depend on battery power, the maximum hours of operation will be 1200-0300 UTC: due to both power limitations and the need to circumvent both nations' monitoring of these propagandists (from Guatemala, San Cristobal Las Casas, Tugitta Gutierrez and the Tabascan capital of Villa Hermosa) hours will be irregular. In deference to radio hobbyists worldwide, we will attempt some special DX programmes that would include an EE cassette prepared by a DX hobbyist active in the NRC and IRCA in the early seventies and through the sixties from both California and Arizona. He will act as a radio hobbyist and philatelic mail drop and work in conjunction with the anticipated InternacionaI Hacker Exposition to coincide with the California Computer Expo (formerly the San Diego Computer Fair) slated for August 17 thru 20, 1995 at the Waterfront San Diego Convention Center, California, E. U.. (Their telephone line is 619-573-0617; the hackers plan no voice line, but assure that a full Internet forum will be forthcoming, variously indexed as *Frente Segundo* and/or *Chiapas*).

Please notify philatelic listeners/readers that Chiapas Libre is now planning postal stamp issues, in the tradition of Estado issues of the Mexican Civil War (1914-1920) that came from Sonora, Oaxaca, and Baja California Sur.

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Starting February 1, 1995 reception reports are solicited for both Voz (propaganda) and SS supply data/voice utility broadcasts as troops in both Chiapas and Guatamela are resupplied by Mayan allies. One trusts that not providing frequencies will be understood.

As you may be aware pan-Mayan unity is spreading across much of Chiapas and Guatamela and penetrating less badly-governed but equally nationalist Tabasco and Yucatan. Unless Presidente Zedillo and Interior Minister Moctezuma get very aware very quickly, they can expect Mayan refugees in such centers as Tijuana, México and Los Angeles to raise havoc with their computers and modems in what will prove the world's first revolution largely fought on the Internet.

Several Frente Segundo activists based in Tijuana, B.C.N. with visas permitting them to cross to San Diego, California have asked our philatelic consultant, Jay Murley of San Diego 92143-4106 to handle all QSL requests.

In turn, he urges DX clubs to count Chiapas Libre and Mayan Guatamela (as opposed to Hispanic Guatamela City, etc.) as separate reception countries. There are no ham radio prospects anticipated. (Approved in Tijuana Centro, B.C.N., México 1/16/95)

#### ANALYSIS OF PRESS RELEASE

The release was forwarded to ACE by maildrop contact Jay Murley of San Diego, who describes himself as a "former NRC and IRCA BCB-DX person." These are the largest medium wave DX clubs in North America. ACE member Mike Hardester of North Carolina wrote in to comment on the release after I uploaded it onto the ACE BBS. Mike's response is as follows: "Jay Murley was very active in medium-wave DX back in the late 60s and early 70s, and like all too many well-respected DXers, "vanished." While I wouldn't question Jay's activities in the above (clandestine press release), it just seems strange that the release is handwritten. I just checked old membership lists, but they only go back to the late 70s, and Jay wasn't mentioned in either IRCA's or NRC's (lists), so obviously he departed the hobby earlier. As best as I can recollect, his location was in Newport Beach, and he was an executive in the radio business (not a specific station as such). It will be interesting to see what Jay has his hands on this time. I just wish I had a chance to do some checking for the station(s)."

As you can see, this looks primarily like a medium wave clandestine. However, possible tropical band HF SWBC operations are at least implied in the release (see below). ACE members in the southwestern USA sometimes complain that reception of pirates can sometimes be difficult in that part of the country, but if this new clandestine goes on the air, the southwest will be prime reception territory for it in the USA.

#### LAST MINUTE FOLLOW UP INFORMATION

Just as I was putting the finishing touches on this column, a letter arrived from Jay Murley with some very intriguing additional information on the stations. Murley indicates that both La Voz de Guatamela Mayan and La Voz de Chiapas Libre have been active, and on shortwave Murley claims to have received reception reports already from Honduras, Mexico, the Cayman Islands, and Key West, Florida. Although he does not list dates and times for actual broadcasts that produced reports, Murley says that the stations have been operating in the 7400-7500 segment of the North American pirate band. Programs are multilingual in Spanish, Mayan, and English. The maildrop address cited above in San Diego is good, so reports should be sent there. The station has a circuitous system of mail forwarding, but reports will be verified. However, Murley indicates that he already has received a "poor report" with details fabricated from DX bulletins from a Gulf Coast resident, and that he does not plan to verify this one.

Murley says that he is intentionally leaving a lot of information out to avoid problems from the Mexican *Federales*, but he does say that the stations have been using mobile transmitter sites in southern Mexico, western Guatemala, and possibly west central Honduras and northwestern El

Salvador, which are all locations where plenty of residents still speak Mayan. Murley's letter to me had some official "Chiapas Libre Centro America" logos on the envelope, which he says are official "Office Depot" rubber stamps from the rebels. He notes again that Chiapas Libre postage stamps are now at a USA printer, and that they will later be available with the rubber stamp logos on collectable envelopes. The stamp phenomenon is not designed as a fundraiser for the rebels, but instead is being used for the propaganda value.

I still have not seen a logging of these stations, so we don't have direct confirmation of all of this information that Murley has provided. But, it will pay to search around the 7400-7500 kHz range for station broadcasts. As many of you know, bootleg Spanish language QSO's are very common on 41 meters. But, the Mayan and English transmissions from the clandestines would be clear ways to distinguish the new stations from the common bootleggers. If you hear the stations, let us know, since this would be excellent fresh DX!

#### THE SUBGENIUS CHURCH

Although it is a pirate and not a clandestine, many of you have heard broadcasts from the Voice of Bob in the past. The station is the radio voice of the Church of the SubGenius and J. R. "Bob" Dobbs. The chief evangelist of the church, Doug Smith, uses the radio name of Rev. Ivan Stang. Although the Voice of Bob has been relatively inactive in recent years on the pirate bands, the SubGenius group produces a weekly "Hour of Slack" radio show in Dallas that is heard on 15 licensed stations nationwide, one of which is WCSB in Cleveland on 89.3 mHz at 0200 UTC Mondays. We mention the operation in the clandestine column this month because ACE member John Hollowell of Maryland sends in a nice copy of a long article about Stang, Dobbs, and the SubGenius that ran in the February 8 edition of the *Washington Post*.

The *Post* article retains the ambiguity that is fostered by the station, where it is unclear if the SubGenius is a parody of fundamentalist preachers or is actually a civil religion in its own right. The article mentions that you can become a fully ordained minister in the Church of the SubGenius by sending \$30 to Post Office Box 140306, Dallas, Texas 75214. The church offers a basic pamphlet for \$1.00, and sells quite a bit of paraphernalia related to Dobbs. This address, which was listed on many of the old Voice of Bob QSL sheets, has remained valid for many years. John sends in a copy of one of these QSL's that he got back in 1992 for a report to Wellsville.

I have heard many editions of the "Hour of Slack" on local radio. It's not only a religious show (or parody thereof). Stang also takes a nihilistic approach to politics that is skeptical of all governments and that has a vaguely clandestine tinge to it. You might want to check out your local FM schedules, particularly if you have college stations in your area, to see if this program is broadcast.

#### ALMOST QUASI-CLANDESTINE NEWS

ACE member William T. Hassig of Illinois sends in an interesting tape of a gay-oriented talk show that aired on WCBR on 92.7 mHz from Arlington Heights, Illinois (a Chicago suburb) on February 5 at 1500 UTC. The guest on this show was Newt Gingrich's half sister, who lives in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She has been openly gay for several years, so the show talked mainly about how this fact registered with her brother's "family values" political stance. Apparently she gets along with her brother and is accepted at family gatherings. Perhaps Pirate Bruce may wish to book her as a guest on his station.

#### WATKINS JOHNSON HF-1000 UPDATE

There is news from the Watkins Johnson company that follows up on the review of the HF-1000 receiver that I printed in the January issue of *The ACE*. I received a letter from Fred Osterman at Universal Shortwave in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, which indicates that the PC control software that has long been under development is now ready for shipment to HF-1000 owners. In addition, another new plug-in e-prom upgrade has been finished, which should be shipped in the same package with the software. Watkins Johnson is providing these services *free* to receiver owners.

I got a more detailed update from Watkins Johnson Senior Applications Engineer Mike Cox, direct from the factory in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The new e-prom supposedly contains several minor upgrades, specifically including a slightly improved noise blanker circuit and a somewhat more rapid AGC attack constant that should improve audio quality. In addition, Watkins Johnson is working on a hardware filter fix for the RFI digital hash problem that I mentioned in some detail within the ACE review. A new headphone jack with two small capacitors and two very tiny ferrite chokes has been developed. Also, an outboard hash filter is under development that reduces the level of RFI hash that comes into the receiver through the A2J16 15 pin audio output connector. Watkins Johnson sent me prototype versions of the two filters for testing. My preliminary results are that they both work to reduce RFI hash, especially the new headphone jack. This very welcome development is slightly dampened by the fact that some residual hash appears to remain even after the prototype A2J16 filter is installed. But, I have to work on this problem some more, and WJ has not yet finalized the filter designs. Stay tuned.

It is very unusual for a shortwave receiver manufacturer to work closely with owners of its products in the development of modifications that will improve the rig. Watkins Johnson should be congratulated for their very active and open policy on this. Now, if Sony, Kenwood, ICOM, and others would just listen to us once in a while.....

#### **EIGHTH ANNUAL WINTER SWL FESTIVAL**

If by some chance you have not heard about it by now, the Eighth annual Winter Shortwave Listeners Festival is scheduled for March 16-19 at its usual venue of the Holiday Inn in Kulpsville, Pennsylvania. The hotel is easily visible when you get off at exit 31 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, which is the first exit north of Philadelphia on the northeast extension of the turnpike. This event is always a highlight of the DX year. As usual, plenty of ACE members plan to be in attendance.

Harold Cones, more notorious as Dr. DX, has sent in a schedule of the Fest program. He left off the major activities like drinking beer, telling stories, and generally seeing old and new friends. In addition, several talks are scheduled on the program. These include Easy Listening with Rich Cuff and John Figliozzi, Pirate and Clandestine DXing with George Zeller of ACE, QSLing with Gerry Dexter (SWBC), David Schmidt (MW), and Don Schimmel (utilities); DX Aids with Harold Sellers, Users Groups on receivers led by Drake personnel and Gilfer Shortwave maven Paul Lannuier who remains a Japan Radio Corporation expert, Longwire Antennas with David Clark, Limited Space Antennas with Rich Arland, Mike Wolfson on Utility DXing, Scanning with John McColeman, Bill Cole, "and assorted Scanner Scum," Rich D'Angelo with representatives of surviving ANARC clubs after the recent demise of SPEEDX and ADXR, and Receiver Specifications led by Joe Buch and Ben Hester. This is certainly a very good caliber and diversity of talks and speakers, with something on the program for everybody. The banquet speaker is Ian MacFarland, formerly of Radio Canada International and Radio Japan, and now the male model on WLIS QSLs.

ACE plans to set up a booth at the Fest as usual. Many other luminaries are expected, including personnel from Watkins Johnson, Passport to World Band Radio, Popular Communications, Monitoring Times, the Voice of Pancho Villa, and other well respected figures in the hobby. It may be a little late to send in for registration information via the Winter SWL Festival, PO Box 591, Colmar, Pennsylvania 18915. But, registrations can be taken at the event itself, although space at the banquet should be reserved as quickly as possible. The phone number for room reservations (mention "WINTER SWL FEST" for the event discount rates of \$59 single and \$64 double) is (215) 368-3800. We will look forward to seeing you there.

#### **THANKS!**

This month we thank the following DXers who sent in material direct to the column: Jay Murley (California), Mike Hardester (North Carolina), John Hollowell (Maryland), William T. Hassig (Illinois), Mike Cox (Maryland), Fred Osterman (Ohio), and George Zeller (Ohio). Next month we will have an unusual early deadline of March 11 for the April Clandestine Profile because of the Winter SWL Festival, so we all hope to hear from YOU by that date.

#### **VERIED RESPONSE**

your center for QSL information and comment

**John T. Arthur, proprietor**  
**RD #1, Box 15A**  
**Belfast, NY 14711**  
**(716) 365-8870, not collect**

with help from the VR Troopers and other Friends. VR is electronically transmitted to A\*C\*E Hdq on or before the 21st of each month. Please send your input and comments to the above address or leave them in the [V]eried Response section of the ANARC BBS prior to the 15th. Your active participation in the form of input, reports, suggestions, or constructive criticism is solicited and welcomed.

Unless otherwise attributed, opinions expressed in Veried Response are those of this clown and hopefully do not represent the attitudes or opinions of any sane person. Any disagreement or complaint should be directed in triplicate to this columnist for round-filing.

*"Men in authority will always think that criticism of their policies is dangerous. They will always equate their policies with patriotism, and find criticism subversive."*  
--Henry Steele Commager

What's News:  
the media report

Ya win some...

In actions taken on March 10th, 1994, the FCC, in effect, told Andrew Yoder that he had no arguement(s) and should forthwith fork over the \$17,500 demanded by the NAL issued to him on May 21, 1992. Since that time, however, the illegally-imposed "revised forfeiture structure" was struck down by the Washington, DC, Court of Appeals, making the ruling moot. [thx Mike Bolitho]

Ya lose some...

On January 20, 1995, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, denied a FCC request for an injunction against Stephen Dunifer. This is the first time the FCC has been denied an injunction to stop the broadcasts of an unlicensed radio station. The court ruled that the FCC must "address the issue of constitutionality of their regulations," exhaust administrative remedies, and rule on Dunifer's appeal of the illegal \$20K NAL levied against him. Peter Franck, of the National Lawyers Guild, said, "...the court's refusal to enjoin micro-radio is the beginning of a recognition by the country that any hope for democracy depends on free access to the airwaves." [thx to someone; I forgot who]

And ya try again...

The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comments on its forfeiture policy statement. The proposed policies are "virtually identical" to 1991 guidelines that were overturned by the DC Court of Appeals last summer. Broadcasters and other interested parties had until the end of February to file comments. The FCC then has 10 days to file reply comments, and the commission could adopt the policy by June. [thx Radio World, 22 Feb 95]

Issue #3 of RADIO! is now available at your local Radio Shack store. This issue is mostly information about scanning, complete with various lists of frequencies to plug it as you travel or whatever. Cover price is US\$1.95, but preferred customers or those who have recently purchased a scanner can get one free. [direct]

*"The use of proverbs is characteristic of an unlettered people. They are invaluable treasures to dunces with good memories."* --John Hay

off the wall....  
the rumor center

ADD to Box 452: Radio Mindwebs...  
ADD to Box 28413: Radio Fusion Radio...

Word via an anonymous informant is that the Vista, CA, address is not only good, but it handles for Anarchy One and Voice of the Dead...

I have a couple reception reports for the current Op(s) of CFBN, but do not have a current address to which to forward them. Please drop me a line and I'll get the mail sent...

Contrary to word seen elsewhere, Bullfrog Radio and High Times Radio are now using Box 452. Please correct your records...

Radio Bob, of RBCN, has informed me that he will "consider worthy programming" submitted for relay. By way of explanation, he sez that he's not interested in basic "music & ID" programming and reserves the right to reject any and all submitted tapes. However, if you produce quality original programming, he might give you air-time. Contact him direct at: PO Box 17534, Atlanta, GA 30316...

Speaking of ACE Reprints (who was..?), 1982, 1983 and 1984 issues are currently available, and I will be re-mastering at the rate of about one year per month until all are available. If you're missing some back issues or would just like to see what ACE used to look like, send a SASE to: ACE Reprints, PO Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711 for info...

Since the February ACE was so late arriving, the time period for your Pirate Poll votes is extended a bit. However, I cannot put off the massive tabulation beyond March 15th, so be sure to get your votes to me NLT that date...

#### Free Radio Blast:

"I still, to this day, walk with a tilt from the tremendous big blow generated last year over the "come and get your SW Liberation poster right here" deal, so I want my poster! I don't care if it's incomplete; I don't care if it's ugly; I don't care if I get the only one just to shut me up. I want my poster! People should DO what they say they're gonna do!" s/ Radio Bob

It has been suggested that the FCC has a double standard when they "visit" unlicensed broadcasters, and on the surface it would appear to be a fact. A person accused of pirate broadcasting, who happens to also hold ham license, generally gets a verbal warning; take away that ham license and the person gets an NAL. This has happened more than once in the last couple years, in fact. While this columnist in no way encourages you to get a ham license for any nefarious reason, you might be well advised to give it some thought. Possession of any class of license generally "covers" ownership of transmitting gear - although there is no law prohibiting ownership without a license...

#### Obituary Notice:

On January 24, 1995, at 10 p.m. ET, Etta-Joan Abernathy passed away suddenly at Mount Sinai Hospital in Miami, FL. Etta's was the woman's voice on the Voice of Anarchy and the Suckmaster Vacuum Cleaner ad. Our deepest sympathies go to Etta's family and Leonard Longwire...

*"Laws are for dogs."*

--HV Short, on the occasion of RFM's first broadcast

**\*\*> The Swappe Shoppe <\*\***

buy, sell, trade announcements Free to A\*C\*E members

Please be concise but complete: if you are looking for an item, accurately describe what you need; if you're selling something, give make, model number, condition and asking price. And be sure to notify me if you find what you're looking for or sell what you are offering so I can keep these ads up-to-date. Thx. NO collect calls, please!

#### WANTED:

Literature on transistor radios from the 1954-1970 era: sales brochures, manuals, catalogs, flyers and magazine ads. Anything relating to transistor radios with, or without, photos. Even interested in kits (e.g.: Heath, Eico, Knight, etc). Certain magazines of that era (Nat'l Geographic, Popular Electronics, etc) had lots of transistor ads. Don't need entire mags, just the ads. Also looking for older pocket-size transistor radios, store displays, pamphlets and other promo items. Pls write to let me know what you have: Robert Ross, Box 1003 Stn B, London, ONT N6A 5K1, Canada. Or call (519) 685-1167.

FT243 crystals for 6950, 7415 and 7525 at reasonable cost. Manual (or photocopy thereof) for Electro-Voice EVT5212 stereo 12-channel mixer. Contact: J. Bebop Brown via Box 452.

#### FOR SALE:

Various FT243 crystals, used in most older amateur xmtrs; \$10 each. Contact jta with your wants.

Sangean ATS818 (same as RS DX390), new in box w/AC adaptor: \$110. Heathkit DX40 SW xmtr, mod for high quality AM: \$75, w/ crystal. Shipping included. Contact: Animal, PO Box 25302, Pittsburgh, PA 15242. (m5)

"The Uniden Cookbook" \$20; "Uniden Updates" (supplement) \$12; both cover HR2510, HR2600, HR2830, Lincoln and RS HTX100. "The RCI Handbook" covers RCI2900, RCI2950, Sommerkamp 789 and Galaxy Uranus Mk2, \$20. "The Ranger Cookbook", covering AR3300 and AR3500, \$15. All books cover simple mods and upgrades using standard parts, and contain easy to read text and instructions. Inquiries require a SASE; technical questions require a SASE and a loose first-class stamp. Contact: Bud Stacey, POB 907, Satsuma, AL 36572.

Kenwood TS-830S with MC-50 desk mic and manual; 500 kHz coverage of all ham bands 160-10, incl. WARC '79 bands, and modifiable for CB: \$450 (+shipping). Contact jta for details.

*"I have found some of the best reasons I ever had for remaining at the bottom simply by looking at the men at the top."*

--Frank Moore Colby

under the door  
the QSL report for: March 1995

Chris Lobdell checks in with a full data card with stickers and letter from KIWI - 7445 signed by Graham Barclay in one month, a full data yellow card from Alliance for Free Radio signed by Pirate Mike in 3.5 years, a full data "shack on hill" card from Radio Titanic Int'l (via NAPRS) signed by Tim Cooper in two months, a full data "kangaroo" sheet from The Great Southland signed by John Quigley in 14 months, a full data "leapfrog" sheet (#1) from Bullfrog Radio in five weeks, an "attractive orange Halloween Blowout" card (#25) from KICK signed by Pete Moss in two months, and new style "map" and "stick figure" card(s?) from WREC for Microdot/Laser relays signed by PJ Sparx in about three weeks.

HV Short plaid along with a full data sheet from Microdot Radio and a full data card from Laser Hot Hits (via WREC).

Joe Filipkowski takes a flying leap on a rolling QSL with a full data sheet (#5) from Hip Hop Radio signed by Hommy the Clown in about 3 months, a full data octagon-shaped card from Radio 43 signed by Seymour Hooters in 10 weeks, a full data yellow card from Alliance for Free Radio signed by Pirate Mike in 3.5 years, a full data card from Radio FAX signed by Trevor Brook in about 1 week for a f/up on a 1992 reception, a full data "tower & globe" card (#174) from RBCN (5855) signed by Radio Bob in 2 weeks, a full data card with stickers and infosheet from Radio Titanic Intl (via NAPRS) signed by Tom Cooper in 2 months, a full data sheet from Up Against The Wall Radio in 2 weeks, a full data "do it yourself" sheet (#7) from CUMM signed by Jack Off in 48 days, a full data card (#280) with stickers and infosheet from Radio Mirage (via NAPRS) signed by Ian Page in 2 months, a full data "way cool" card (#1) from Way Gone Radio signed by Dr Chicago in 36 days, a full data card and stuff from KIWI signed by Graham Barclay in 28 days, two full data sheets (#148 & 149) from WKND signed by Radio Animal in 3 weeks, a full data oversize card (#200) from NAPRS signed by RTP in 18 days, a full data card from Laser Hot Hits (via SRR) in 1 month, and SIX full data sheets (#533, 541, 568, 571, 573 & 575) from WLIS signed by Charles Poltz for ACE/ PiPa logs.

Mike Leclerc added to his collection with two full data photo cards from RFM signed by HV Short in 13 days, a full data octagon-shaped card from Radio 43 signed by Seymour Hooters in ten weeks, a full data "home site" card from Radio Titanic Intl signed by Tim Cooper in 2 months, a full data sheet (#6) from Hip Hop Radio signed by Hommy the Clown in 3 months, and three full data sheets (#567, 570 & 574) from WLIS signed by Charles Poltz in 38 days.

Joseph Karas, in New Jersey, doubled his QSL collection with a full data "map of Blue Ridge Summit" sheet (#556) from WLIS signed by Charles Poltz in four weeks. [welcome aboard! jta]

Skip Arey celebrates a two-sheet "crispy cultists" no data QSL from WEED in 443 days.

Jesse Rose rolls right along with a full data "we're glad you caught our signal..." card from Solid Rock Radio signed by Dr Love in 7 weeks, a full data special "station plots" card from Solid Rock Radio signed by Dr Love in 3 weeks, a full data "best of the 60s music" card from Radio City (relay) in 4 weeks, a full data "face in foot" card from One Voice Radio signed by Joe in 4 weeks, a full data "we love DX Partyline" sheet (#507) from WLIS signed by Charles Poltz in 6 weeks, a full data xmt card and infosheet from NAPRS signed by RTP in 4 weeks, and a full data card (#276) from Radio Mirage signed by Ian Page in 8 weeks.

Franz Bergman presently sports about 2 million bees and a full data "dog with transmitter" sheet (#137) from WKND signed by Radio Animal, a full data "satisfied KICK listener" (#15) card from KICK signed by Pete Moss in 27 days, a full data oversized pink card (#51) from KDED in about 1 month, a full data uncut card (#224) from Up Against The Wall Radio signed by Owsley in under a month, a full data "la banda Azteca" card (#135) from Radio Azteca signed by BS in about 1 month, a full data sheet (#2) from High Times Radio signed by Sam & Ganja in 29 days, a full data "open season" sheet (#109) from Radio Garbanzo in 50 days, two full data sheets (#173 & 174) for Garbanzo and Laser relays (from..?), a full data sheet (#30) from Quantum State Labs in 60 days, a full data "pirate barnstormers" card (#205) from The Radio Airplane signed by Capn Eddy in 58 days, and a full data "child up against bombed-out wall" sheet from Up Against The Wall Radio signed by Owsley.

Niel Wolfish, in Ontario, chimes in with a full data pink Halloween sheet (#61) from Altered States Radio signed by William Hurt in 3 weeks, a "do it yourself" sheet (#3) from CUMM signed by Jack Off in 3 weeks, a full data "afternoon delight" sheet (#18) from High Times Radio signed by Ganja and Sam, a full data card and stickers from Laser Hot Hits in 4 weeks, a full data green "primitive art" card (#11) from Primitive Radio signed by Holden Caufield in 3 weeks, a full data "staff photo" card (#125) from The Radio Airplane signed by Capn Eddy in 6 weeks, a full data Spanish letter from Radio Ano Nuevo signed by Father Jack Pizza in 1 month, a full data card and stickers from Radio Mirage signed by Ian Page in 2 months, a full data sheet (#7) from Radio 43 in 3 weeks, a

full data "95" card (#11) from RFM signed by HVShort in 3 weeks, a full data "comic" sheet from RKNA signed by The Ol' Western Feller in 5 weeks, a full data sheet from The Great Southlands signed by John Quigley in 14 months, a full data sheet (#66) from Voice of Runaway Maharishi signed by himself in 4 weeks, and two full data sheets (#189 & 190) from WREC signed by PJ Sparx in 1 month.

Rob Ross imagined a full data station card from CFBN signed by House and Deer Fly(s) in 2 weeks, a full data yellow card from Alliance for Free Radio signed by Pirate Mike in 3.5 years, a full data card from Solid Rock Radio signed by Dr Love in 3 weeks, and a personal letter from the Chief Engineer of WKLX-FM verifying an "unauthorized pirate relay" of their signal on 1620 kHz.

Michael Goetsch also reports a personal letter from Dave Lane, CE of WKLX, verifying the same "unauthorized pirate relay" of their signal on 1620 kHz.

George Zeller announces a full data colored "antenna on globe" card (#175) from RBCN signed by Radio Bob in 14 days, a full data "outhouse on hill" card from Radio Titanic Intl signed by Tim Cooper in 75 days, a full data red logo card from Radio Mirage signed by Ian Page in 60 days, a full data "Glenn Hauser listens to a pirate" sheet from WLIS signed by Charles Poltz in 40 days, a full data generic sheet from CUMM signed by Jack Off in 51 days, and a full data "dancing couple wearing a box" sheet from High Times Radio signed by Sam & Ganja in 74 days.

Andrew Ashbaugh squeezed out a full data sheet (#576) of design #50 from WLIS signed by Charles Po9ltz for a report in DiaLogs.

JD Stephens lambasts us with a no data "running man drinking coffee" sheet from the fake Radio USA in 10 months, a full data yellow card from Alliance for Free Radio in 3.5 years, a full data orange card and playlist from KICK signed by Pete Moss in 89 days, a full data logo card and stuff from Radio Mirage signed by Ian Page in 63 days, a full data "kangaroo" letter from The Great Southland signed by John Quigley in about 15 months, and a full data "typical WEWN listener" sheet from WLIS signed by Charles Poltz in about 1 month.

Miss Sheryl Paszkiewicz lets us off lightly with only a full data card and letter from One Voice Radio signed by Joe in 29 days.

Rick Doehner provides his meager offering of a partial data card (#55) from Up Against The Wall Radio with personal note in 2 months, a full data blue "map" card from NAPRS signed by RTP in 18 days, a full data "Charlie and Mr X" card (#105) from Pirate Radio Boston signed by Charlie Loudenboomer in 1 month, and two full data sheets (#116 & 124) from Starshine Radio (via R Doomsday) signed by Kim Hawk in 10 weeks with postcard of Norway.

Ye Olde Columniste scored a no data paper card from WRDM for an unID log somewhere, and a full data "leapfrog" sheet (#4) from Bullfrog Radio - 6955 in 51 days (my 2nd Bullfrog Radio!). Until next, 73 and great DX...

## continued from page 23

fun but is far better than an NAL fine exceeding \$10,000. Make sure that you only allow them access to what is described in the warrant. If it says "equipment" that is all they make take. They may not touch QSL's, letters or other non-equipment items that are not specified in the warrant.

**DISCLAIMER:** The above information is presented as an instructional tool and should not be construed as legal representation. The author is a licensed attorney but does not imply an attorney/client relationship for any person making use of this information. Should you be confronted with a situation involving any governmental agency you should contact competent legal representation in your state.

# DX Clip Board

Andrew Yoder  
POB 109  
Blue Ridge Summit, PA  
17214

Last month, I said that loads of information--especially from the Pirate Radio Insanity broadcasts--would be available. Well, I didn't know just how true that statement would be. Unfortunately.

The talk of the town over the past month has been the FCC actions against suspected shortwave and FM pirates. I won't get into a whole lot of it this month because I've heard that it will be covered extensively in the February *ACE*. It's 2/23 as I write this and I haven't yet received my February *ACE*, so I'm kind of writing this column blindly.

Anyway, several people who were suspected of operating pirate stations had their houses inspected. In situation number 1, all shortwave equipment (receiving and transmitting) was arrested by the authorities. The person involved was able to sign a release saying that he would not show up in court and that was that. No fines, no court dates, just a loss of equipment. In case number 2, no equipment capable of transmitting was found and nothing else happened. In case number 3, the agents had no search warrant and were not allowed into the house. They haven't returned since.

This entire situation was very strange because it represents a whole new direction for FCC enforcement. In the past, equipment seizures have always occurred with NALs. This time, the FCC rules were entirely bypassed and the case was taken to court with the equipment held as leverage against the person. If this is the case, the pirate with the least amount of money spent on equipment definitely makes out the best. I guess that the theory here is that anyone who spends a lot of money to make professional-quality broadcasts without a license deserves to be fined more than someone who spends \$15 on a technically sloppy transmitter that interferes with other stations? I guess this rationale is what keeps the FCC in business.

Overall, the confiscating equipment stuff is a lot better in most cases than the FCC's old practice of fining exuberant amounts of money. However, the Constitutionality of it is totally suspect.

As I said in the last paragraph, this confiscation stuff will probably help most pirates. However, I can think of at least one example where this "guilty until proven innocent" rationale could be misused and even abused. For some background for this example, I receive the newsletter *Electric Radio*. This magazine covers antique radios (amateur and military); everything from history to restoration and repair, etc. Some of these guys have incredible stations, loaded with rare, restored equipment.

So, what happens if the FCC suspects an amateur operator of pirating (either rightly or wrongly)? And what if this person just happens to collect and restore old equipment? According to the procedure from the earlier case, they could confiscate any rare equipment that relates to shortwave in any way, shape, or form. In other words, they could confiscate (i.e. steal) tens of thousands of dollars of rare radio equipment without any proof of unlicensed operations. Hardly fits the "crime."

An interesting scenario would occur if some pirate regularly took equipment to woods behind an amateur operator/collector's house. Then, the pirate broadcasted. The pirate could even anonymously tip off the FCC that the station would either be on the air or that this particular ham was pirating. Then, the FCC would DF the pirate broadcasts to this house. Because of their usual enforcement procedures, they would merely find that the field strength was very high in that area.

After procuring a search warrant, they would also find that the house contained many pieces of expensive and rare equipment in the house of the amateur. Thousands or tens of thousands of dollars in equipment would be confiscated and the poor amateur would be left with only court to decide the fate of his equipment.

Heh heh, fight a branch of the government with unlimited use of lawyers in court? No way! The equipment would be lost and fighting in court would cause the amateur to lose even more money.

Adding insult to injury, according to what I have heard from past cases, confiscated equipment is not sold, it is *destroyed*. As a result, that museum-quality Hallicrafters dual-diversity receiver

would be smashed...simply because it can receive shortwave signals. Likewise, other items that would be more suitable at Smithsonian than in a flea market, would be destroyed. All of this because of the FCC's inadequate procedures in direction finding unlicensed stations and enforcing their own rules.

Thankfully, I know of few pirates malicious enough to attempt the scenario above. But it would be a real tragedy if it did happen--and it could.

## Electric Radio and amateur radio interference

Speaking of *Electric Radio*, the address is: 1590 Baby Bear Dr., Durango, CO 81301. The cost is \$28 per year second class and \$38 per year first class. If you are into old tube radios, this newsletter is a MUST. One nice feature in the 2/95 issue is dedicated to the Hallicrafters HT-40 transmitter--a basic low-power, sweep-tube transmitter from the 1960s that has been used by a number of pirates.

In addition to old equipment, *Electric Radio* also covers the art of operating in the AM mode. AM is especially interesting for people who broadcast. If you've heard music on many of the SSB pirates, you'll know what I mean. Anyway, the AM mode is disliked by many amateurs because it requires more space on the bands to transmit than an SSB signal. As a result, there have been many arguments about the use of AM and whether it should be allowed on the amateur bands. In many cases, the ham bands are clear and I don't see it as a problem.

However, the AM International (an organization of AM operators to promote the use of the AM mode on the amateur bands) South Central Regional Director, John Firey, WB5HRI had an interesting report in the 2/95 issue of *Electric Radio*.

*"I have been listening to the bands nightly, some of what I hear is distressing. We have a serious problem with a group of 'road warriors' that started late last season near 3880 kHz. If an AM QSO is attempted, they tend to close in on 3880, and discuss which sideband they can use to cause the most interference to the AM QSO..."*

Truly disturbing...best wishes to those in 5-land for interference-free communications.

## Security

I have heard that someone recently ran into FCC problems because information was posted on the alt.radio.pirate section of the Internet. Apparently the tip-off occurred because someone faxed this information to the FCC. The bottom line is: *Don't publicize your skeds in public places!* The Internet is a public area, free for anyone to access. And you can bet that at least a few over-zealous hams are going to be patrolling the area to make sure that no amateur gets on the air...unless they pass that code test and stick to two-way communications. Cross these guys and they'll send everything that they can dig to the FCC.

Makes you wonder why these guys aren't policing the ham bands and cleaning up the interference there. Also makes me wonder why the FCC is wasting their time on pirates and not cracking down on amateur interference...

But for whatever reason, the FCC leaves the amateurs on their own and busts the "small potatoes" guys that cause little or no interference. To gather some of this information, they apparently read the *ACE* and the ANARC BBS. It seems that they look in the PSE QSL files, check to see where the listeners are from and match the regular listeners with the general readings that they have gotten from national direction finding. Then, they wait for a station to go on the air and send an agent to the suspect's house. Easy!

If you are a new listener and are considering starting a station, try some deception. Get a post office box a few miles from your house--maybe even 10 miles away. Then use a different (even slightly different) name for all QSLing. This makes everything much safer. For even more safety, have everything run through a maildrop (i.e. use one of the pirate maildrop addresses as your regular address and have all of your QSLs, etc. sent through there). For example, your name might

be William Kowalski (pardon to anyone with that name) and you live in New Brighton, Pennsylvania. Go by a somewhat similar-sounding name (i.e. Bill Coles or Bill Kowls) or something that is obviously different (i.e. Dr. Hotdog) and get a post office box 5-10 miles away in Beaver, PA.

It's a pain in the butt and it might cost a few extra \$ up front, but it could save all of your shortwave equipment sometime.

Another real security problem with what hits the paper is writing letters, QSLs, and reception reports. Some tips about writing letters to people:

*Don't talk about your station and yourself in the same letter* Correspondence sometimes falls into the wrong hands and there's no reason to leave a lasting paper trail. If you want to write about yourself and pirating, write two separate letters--no matter how safe the person that you are writing to is.

*Tell as few people about your operation as possible* It might seem like fun to tell everyone about your operations, but the more people that know about it, the more problems you could have. Be tight-lipped. A good rule to follow is: don't tell anyone anything unless that person is EXTREMELY tight-lipped AND trustworthy AND can help your operations significantly. Some examples of significant help would be a maildrop operator, someone who can fix or purchase radios, or a nearby operator to work in conjunction with.

*Always use a different typewriter or computer font from what you ever use* You might be surprised at how many identities you can discover by receiving QSLs and comparing the handwriting to that which you see on reception reports. Many people have very distinctive handwriting, yet insist on writing out the envelopes. A somewhat similar rule would be:

*Make sure that everything from the station is different and/or nonsignificant* Don't use envelopes with specialty patterns, avoid using similar types of ink, watch the margins, etc.

A number of station operators that have known what to do or not to do, regarding security, have gotten lazy and have regretted it.

#### Press release

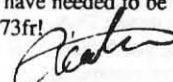
**NAPRS ceases operation!** Due to the recent FCC actions against several people suspected of operating pirate r. stns, we have decided to halt operations immediately. Any outstanding rpts will, of course, be gladly QSLed. We were in the pirate relay business for the fun of it. Getting knocks on the door has taken the fun away. NAPRS was in operation from 10/15/92 until 1/15/95.

**NAPRS achievement awards now available!** Suitable for framing, the certificates are issued starting with 10 relays QSL'd, then increasing in increments of 5. To qualify, send us a list of the name of the stations heard via NAPRS, time, date, frequency, and whether the QSL obtained for the relay was from the station itself or from NAPRS. Your application, along with \$1 and 1 \$.32 stamp sent to the home office in Wellsville, NY will get you one of these certificates. Please be sure to spell your name the way you want it on the certificate. FFFR! Richard T. "Dick" Pistek (retired)

Thanks a bunch to Dick Pistek and the NAPRS for relaying all of the interesting programming over the past 2+ years! Good luck in your future endeavors!

#### Conclusion

Wow, this column sounds neo-apocalyptic or something. The situation isn't that bad, in fact it's pretty good (more on that next month). But with some of the problems that have occurred recently, it triggered me to write some things that have needed to be printed. Good luck & 73fr!



**JOLLY ROGER RADIO**



Where The Music Sounds A Little Bit Better

**Micro - 'Casting**  
**by Bud Stacey**  
**POB 907**  
**Satsuma, AL 36572**

Contributions towards the goal of increasing and spreading knowledge about Part 15 microbroadcasting are greatly appreciated; this is YOUR column! Please send all loggings, QSLs, station information, broadcasting schedules, tapes and what-have-you to the address above. Info for this column should be sent to arrive by the 15th of each month.

**BIG BOYS PLAYING WITH SMALL TRANSMITTERS:** Thanks to Scott Krauss for an article from the December 10, 1994 issue of Billboard Magazine regarding a major company obviously using Part 15 goodies! The following is the article:

**"ATLANTIC SETS UP DEPARTMENT FOR LOW-POWER RADIO...[New York]** Spurred on by the success of its low-power radio promotion this summer outside New York's Holland Tunnel, Atlantic Records has created a separate department dedicated to the burgeoning world of 100 milliwatt - 1/10 of a watt - radio outposts.

Atlantic's division for low-powered radio ventures will be headed by Bob Kranes, former PD at WBCN Boston and WLIR (now WDRE) Long Island, NY. The label hopes not only to move more product by exposing artists through the alternative outlet, but to bring in outside advertisers and turn the mini-stations into revenue streams.

This summer, in an attempt to expose passengers stuck in traffic near the Holland Tunnel to new music, Atlantic stuck a transmitter on the roof of a nearby Texaco station and beamed out for 500 feet, the music of B-Tribe on 1510 AM (Billboard, August 6, 1994). Because the AM signal is so weak, an FCC license is not required.

According to Kranes, the Holland Tunnel signal is up and running once again. This time, instead of simply hearing music (Hootie & the Blowfish are currently being featured), commuters are encouraged to call in a special number when they get to work to win prizes, such as Atlantic products (samplers, cassettes, CDs) and free tunnel tolls for a month. The plan, though, is not to keep low-powered stations exclusive to Atlantic.

For instance, Kranes describes the possibility of working in conjunction with a shopping mall. The label could hook up a transmitter to the building's roof, making incoming shoppers aware of the signal, promote Atlantic products on the air and sell ad time to mall retailers so they can tip off shoppers to sales.

The second Atlantic 'station', located on the Queens, NY side of the Midtown Tunnel, is scheduled to go on the air by the end of the year. Kranes says there may be as many as 25 outlets dotting the city by next summer, with plans on the books to head to distant, traffic-choked towns... Eric Boehlert"

What about it folks: should giant companies be the only ones making \$\$ at Part 15ing??? And I wonder what the article meant by "beamed out" signal??? I, for one, agree with Steve Dunifer of Radio Free Berkeley in believing radio should be 'for the people'. Seems as if Atlantic Records gets all the 'good' publicity and bucks, where the common operator gets all the hassles. I intend to check further into this info... Thanks again, Scott!

'Bye for now... Bud

Here's another installment of Microcasting, as we ran out of space for last month's column.

Old things are new things: Yes, even though this month's column will deal with FM transmitters, there are some new designs and sources out there! Upon receiving any catalog, I immediately find the page with kits - so I did with the latest MCM Electronics book (650 Congress Park Dr., Centerville, OH. 45459-4072 1-800-543-4300). Catalog #34 page 151 sports their #80-760 FM Stereo Transmitter Kit for \$29.95 (enclosure kit #80-780 for \$8.95). This one takes a 9 volt battery and is not much larger area wise than the battery! It comes with volume controls for the right and left channel and exhibits 40 db stereo separation.

A similar kit comes from Electronic Rainbow (6254 LaPas Trail, Indianapolis, IN 46268 317-291-7262). The same specs and features apply as well as the same prices for the kit (FMST-100) and enclosure (FMSTC). One would wonder who is supplying who with these kits. Last but not least is a new entry from Xandi Electronics (Box 25647, Tempe, AZ, 85285-5647 602-829-8152). Their XFS108 FM stereo transmitter combo kit is \$41.95 -- a bit steep in my book-- and contains the manual, PCB and all parts. Of course, Xandi allows one to purchase as much or as little as one desires, from just the manual all the way up to what they call the "E-Z" kits, which means all parts installed but the battery snap and antenna. Hmmph! Half the fun is building the darned thing. This kit also has separate level controls for right and left channels, but also has a "built-in output level monitor for quick and easy tuning". No other explanation is available at this time as to how the latter feature works; surely, they'll describe it in more detail in a later catalog....?

DX TESTS ON PART 15? In speaking recently with a fellow radio nut [read: enthusiast!], one of the usual questions of area coverage and/or DX possibilities arose. Citing cases of Part 15 operations on 1750 meters (160-190 kHz), stations have been logged hundreds of miles from the transmitting stations(s). These no-license transmitters more or less operate under pretty much the same restrictions as the Part 15 AM broadcaster would, with the exception being 1750 meters uses a 15' antenna; the AMer can only use a ten foot antenna.

If an AMer uses the same principle as the 1750 meter operator, he/she could wind an antenna for the particular frequency needed on a 10' section of PVC pipe. Remember, the entire PHYSICAL length of the antenna system, including ground, cannot be longer than ten feet; there isn't anything in the rules that says you can't helically wind the antenna! Two things can be done: for non-moving "base" operation, a resonant vertical could be wound on a ten foot PVC pipe with a transmitter placed at the bottom and its ground foil attached to a good earth ground, OR, for the on-the-go person, a vertical dipole could be built with a platform at the center to mound the transmitter's output to the "hot" (top) and "ground" (bottom) sections of the antenna. In both cases, the audio (right and left channel) B+ voltage and ground could be sent to the transmitter with a preferably shielded four-wire cord. Also, use WHITE PVC pipe, as any other color is able to act as an electrical conductor. Theoretically, an AMer should have some degree of success similar to that of the 1750 meter op; the main restriction would be choice of mode of operation. 1750 meter ops use mainly CW (Morse Code) which is more efficient than AM. BUT, don't be surprised if one day an announcement is made for listeners "out there" to participate in a low powered DX test, most likely in the expanded AM band before the "big boys" take it over. It would be interesting to find out! Any takers? We'll coordinate it here; feel free to write! With that, I'll say, "hasta la vista, muchachos!" de Bud

## F Y I

Recent visits from the FCC have disclosed new information which is of use to many who are interested in non-licensed broadcasts. The affidavit which was served along with the warrant indicates that the monitoring stations are able to triangulate to a location within 15 miles of a transmitter. Standing alone, this is not enough probable cause for a warrant.

NAL's are temporarily a thing of the past. When the new fine structure was barred by the Federal courts, the FCC was faced with a situation where they had a rule but violation could be punished by absolutely nothing. The old fine structure does not magically re-appear. When the new fine structure went into effect, the old fine structure became non-existent.

Now that the new fine structure has been ruled invalid, there is no fine which the FCC can levy against an individual for illegal activity which occurs during the time period covered by the invalid fine structure. There is a possibility that if activity can be linked to a period prior to the implementation of the new fine structure, the old fine structure could be imposed. It is unclear whether such an action would stand up in court. We will not have an answer unless the FCC ties an operator to a broadcast in the past and they seek this form of fine.

It appears that the FCC would rather not test that legal theory and risk losing. They are instead using a technique adopted from the DEA and other federal agencies. It is probable that anyone who has operated an unlicensed transmitter has been DFed to at least within 15 miles. With that information in hand, and information obtained from the ANARC BBS, the ACE, internet and other sources, it becomes highly probable that the FCC will position one of the new DF cars in the area if they suspect a transmission will occur. That is the method used in the recent incident.

When a DF car marks a precise location, the new tactic comes into play. It does the FCC no good to issue an NAL because they do not at the present time have a fine to impose. The alternative is an IN REM civil action against the equipment.

A search warrant is issued based on an affidavit from the DF operator. The FCC will present the search warrant with the help of a U.S. Marshall. As with any warrant, cooperation is suggested. The warrant used in the recent incident called for a search of a private residence and the confiscation of "equipment capable of being operated in the H.F. radio spectrum." This includes receivers.

The civil IN REM action allows anyone with an interest in the equipment to answer the complaint and attempt to recover portions of the equipment (such as receivers) which have not been used to illegally transmit. The problem for the operator is that in order to fight the action in court, it will undoubtedly cost more than the equipment is worth. The federal government has used this tactic for several years against computer operations. In those situations, it has taken at least a full year and in some cases over 3 years to recover seized equipment. Although it is technically possible for an individual to appear in court, it is rarely feasible or advisable. The result is that the attorney fees required to be successful easily eclipse the cost of replacing the equipment.

If you do nothing in response to the civil IN REM action, a default judgment against the equipment will be entered and it will be forfeited. That is also the termination of the incident. Should a person decide that the cost of fighting the confiscation exceeds the value of the equipment taken and decides to forfeit the gear, the entire matter can be brought to a close more quickly by contacting the U.S. District Attorney assigned to the case. By informing the DA that you do not intend to fight in court, an agreed order will be prepared which you will be required to sign. The matter will then be over. Always have an attorney review ANYTHING before you sign.

There is no arrest or fine, only the forfeiture of the equipment seized. The FCC agents involved will undoubtedly attempt to scare anyone they visit by mentioning huge fines and other intimidating comments. At this point in time, until a new fine structure is implemented, forfeiture is the best tactic they have. It shuts down an illegal broadcaster, it puts a dent in the person's wallet and it usually scares most people to the point that they will not venture into illegal broadcasting again. These are exactly the results the FCC is looking for.

As always, it is suggested that you be polite. You are not required to answer their questions. Above all, you are not required to admit any guilt. If however, you volunteer any information, it may be used against you or others. Do not lie, it is a federal offense. There is nothing illegal about being stupid and "I don't know" is a perfectly acceptable answer to questions.

The use of IN REM civil proceedings by the FCC is a stop-gap measure. It is actually good news for unlicensed broadcasters. Forfeiture of several thousand dollars worth of equipment is no

continued on page 17

**ASSOCIATION OF CLANDESTINE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS**  
**P. O. Box 11201, Shawnee Mission, KS 66207-0201**

The A\*C\*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A\*C\*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A\*C\*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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